

## Message Text

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16

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-13 ISO-00 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-02 H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-15

STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 OMB-01 DRC-01

/183 W

----- 029853

R 051450Z SEP 73 ZDK

FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6710

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS HELSINKI 2374

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECON, EFIN, FI

SUBJECT: FINLAND'S IMPORT LICENSING CONTROLS

REF: (A) HELSINKI 2355; (B) HELSINKI 2331; AND

(C) HELSINKI A-243

1. SUSPENSION OF IMPORT LICENSES FOR DESIGNATED  
HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND AUTOMOBILES WERE LIFTED FOR  
GOODS PAID FOR BY AUGUST 29, WHEN MEASURE WENT  
INTO EFFECT. ON SEPTEMBER 4, AUTOMOBILES VALUED  
AT ABOUT \$30 MILLION TOGETHER WITH MANY HOUSEHOLD  
GOODS WERE LICENSED, ACCORDING TO DIRECTOR OF  
IMPORT LICENSE BUREAU. LICENSES FOR GOODS NOT YET  
PAID FOR WILL MOST LIKELY BE RESUMED WEEK OF  
SEPTEMBER 10 WITH VOLUME OF LICENSES TO BE ISSUED  
TIED TO PAST DEMAND TRENDS, I.E. 1971, 1972 AND  
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FIRST-HALF 1973 PURCHASES. ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD OF

LICENSE BUREAU WILL MEET ON FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 7 TO  
DETERMINE LICENSE POLICY.

2. DURATION OF LICENSING REQUIREMENT IS INDEFINITE AT  
MOMENT AND LIKELY TO BE DETERMINED ON A POLITICAL  
BASIS, ALTHOUGH OSTENSIBLY IT WILL BE LIFTED WHEN  
ECONOMIC CONDITIONS WARRANT. THE ANNOUNCEMENT AND  
EXPECTATION THAT LICENSE CONTROLS WOULD BE LIFTED ONCE  
THE "EQUALIZATION TAX" IS IMPOSED APPEARS TO BE A  
NON-STARTER. THE TAX PROPOSAL IS RUNNING INTO  
DIFFICULTIES AND IT IS POSSIBLE THE IMPORT SURCHARGE SYSTEM  
MAY NEVER BE APPROVED BY THE PARLIAMENT. THE PRESS HAS  
REPORTED THAT THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT HAS QUESTIONED  
THE CONSISTENCY OF SUCH AN ACTION WITH FINLAND'S  
COMMITMENT TO CONSULT UNDER THE EFTA AGREEMENT, LET  
ALONE THE GATT.

3. EMBASSY COMMENT. THE LICENSE BUREAU DIRECTOR  
HAS INDICATED TO AN EMBASSY OFFICER THAT IF AMERICAN  
SHIPPERS SHOULD ENCOUNTER UNREASONABLE DIFFICULTIES  
IN OBTAINING LICENSES, HE WOULD BE PREPARED TO  
CONSIDER FAVORABLY JUSTIFIED HARDSHIP CASES.  
KREHBIEL

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CUSTOMS DUTIES, IMPORT LICENSES, IMPORT CONTROLS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 05 SEP 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973HELSIN02374  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** HELSINKI  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1973/newtext/t19730954/aaaabnwd.tel  
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**Office:** ACTION EB  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** (A) HELSINKI 2355; (B) HELSINKI 2331, ; AND  
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**TAGS:** ECON, EFIN, FI  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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